

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAL-01 L-03 PPT-02 SCA-01 VO-03 TRSE-00

SCS-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 CPR-02

SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 DODE-00 SPC-03 /092 W

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R 192104Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8854

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, CVIS, PN, PQ

SUBJ: CHANGE OF STATUS FEE

REF: PANAMA 5599

SUMMARY: EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT GOP AIDE-MEMOIRE RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 15 MAY LEAVE DEPARTMENT WITH IMPRESSION THAT MOST CANAL ZONE EMPLOYEES (CIVILIAN AND MILITARY) ARRIVE IN CANAL ZONE WITH EITHER PANAMANIAN TOURIST CARD OR VISA. THIS IS NOT TRUE. PRACTICALLY ALL EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS ARRIVE IN CANAL ZONE PURSUANT TO OFFICIAL ORDERS OR ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION UNDER CONDITIONS SET FORTH SECTION 35 CODE FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 59, SUBPART B.

1. REVIEWING COMMENTS SUBMITTED REFTEL AND GOP AIDE-MEMOIRE OF OCTOBER 10 (RECEIVED OCTOBER 15), ESPECIALLY PARAGRAPHS SIX AND SEVERN, EMBASSY NOTES THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT MOST CANAL ZONE EMPLOYEES (CIVILIAN AND MILITARY) ARRIVE IN ZONE WITH EITHER A PANAMANIAN TOURIST CARD OR VISA. THIS IS NOT TRUE. NO PANAMANIAN

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DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED FOR PERSONS ARRIVING ON ISTHMUS

WHOSE DESTINATION IS CANAL ZONE.

2. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF CANAL ZONE EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS ARRIVE IN CANAL ZONE ON OFFICIAL USG ORDERS, OR ON ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION FORMS ISSUED BY CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT (SEE SECTION 35 CFR, PART 59, SUBPART B). THERE ARE EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS, AND LESSER NUMBERS OF OTHER PERSONS, WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN CANAL ZONE ON SOME BASIS OTHER THAN OFFICIAL ORDERS OR ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION. HOWEVER, MOST OF THESE PERSONS EVENTUALLY BECOME AN IMMIGRATION RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USG.

3. COMMENT: AID-MEMOIRE OF OCTOBER 10 HAS FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS. IT SEEMS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY IS IGNORING U S IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY AND IS SAYING THAT CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS, AS WELL AS EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS RESIDEING IN PANAMA, ARE IN PANAMANIAN TERRITORY WITHOUT PROPER PANAMANIAN IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION, I.E., THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE TOURISTS WHO HAVE OVERSTAYED 90 DAYS ALLOWED TOURISTS UNDER THEIR REGULATIONS WITH NET EFFECT BEING SUCH PERSONS ARE PANAMANIAN IMMIGRATION SUBJECTS AND MUST PAY \$50 "CHANGE OF STATUS" FEE PER DEPENDENT AND MADE \$250 REPATRIATION DEPOSIT PER DEPENDENT. GOP SEEMS TO BE SAYING THAT "CANAL ZONE IS PANAMANIAN TERRITORY NOT UNDER PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION" BUT IF RESIDENTS THEREOF VENTURE OUTSIDE INTO "PANAMANIAN TERRITORY UNDER PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION" THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO PANAMA'S IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.

4. SIDE EFFECT OF SIGNIFICANT CONSEQUENCE IN ACCEPTANCE OF PANAMA'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS WHO RESIDE IN PANAMA IS THAT PANAMA WOULD GAIN CONTROL OVER WHO (BOTH PAN CANAL AND U S ARMED FORCES) WOULD BE ALLOWED IMMIGRATION STATUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA05680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731021/aaaaapjx.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PANAMA 5599
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGE OF STATUS FEE
TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, CVIS, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005